## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

March 23, 2000 LB 936

insurance. Why should I buy insurance and starve? So I choose to eat and stay healthy because I can't afford insurance. there are a lot of people walking around in cities who have no insurance and no way to get it. Senator...Senator Bourne correctly pointed out that you can find two economies in Nebraska, and maybe more than two, if you want to subdivide, but say there are two. In any state in this country where you have an urban population and a rural population, there are two economies. Everywhere, that can be found in every state in this country, even in the state of New York, and that might surprise people. New York is probably one of the largest wine producers, grape growing states in the country, bar none, which people may not be aware of. So the existence of the two economies is a fact of American life because you have urban and rural divisions within every state. The way you help do away with the disparity is to do something for the people who are working for a living and are not paid a living wage. This bill does not require it. Senator Matzke frankly told you that if it did require it, he would want nothing to do with the bill because he wants to help businesses, not the people. And by simply helping a business, you do not eliminate disparity between the rural economy and the What will happen under a bill like this is to city economy. encourage other businesses to come into an already depressed rural area by telling them you can pay low wages here and you can get all the workers that you need because, as Senator Coordsen pointed out, they don't even have enough money to rent a truck to move someplace. For better or for worse, if there is no place like home, maybe no place worse, maybe no place better, but in either case, there is no place like home for some people, just like those who lived on Tobacco Row. This is home, others may say I would never live there, but for those who must, this is home, if it is a shanty, if it's a shack, if it's underneath an overpass and there are people in this society who live under those conditions, and we don't address those. Those are the human conditions. We help businesses, and don't require the businesses to be good citizens. All of the talk of social justice that we hear, that people are taught in churches, that they hear their ministers preach about, have no bearing, whatsoever, when we talk about helping people in a concrete way. We have a bill before us now under which we can address these issues, but will they be addressed? Probably not.